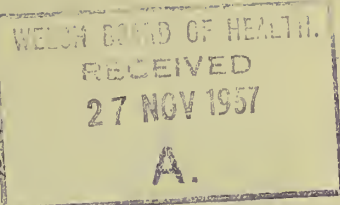


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FORDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - YEAR 1956.

Forden Rural District Council; 1956 -

Councillor S. G. Pritchard (Chairman);
Councillor B. H. Puckle (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors T. W. Bayliss, W. L. Bolderston,
J. Bore, J. D. Bowen, T. P. Bowen,
W. E. Corfield, G. E. Edwards,
E. D. Evans, J. E. Jones,
J. R. Jones, T. E. Jones,
W. W. Jones, G. H. Madeley,
M. E. Matthews, H. Parry, E. Ralph,
J. E. Vaughan.



Clerk of the Council - Philip E. Jones, D.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health - I. B. Millar, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O.,
D.P.H.

Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector - Frederick Hunt,
Cert. S.I.B., M.R. San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

To the Forden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1956, which is drawn up with due regard to the Welsh Board of Health Circular on this subject, No. 19/56 (Wales).

The Vital Statistics show that the District compares favourably in most respects with the rest of the country. In 1955 the excess of female deaths ^{over} male deaths at ages 90 and over was 2. In 1956 it was 4. The proportion of elderly women in the community is rising and this is a point worth some consideration in future housing programmes especially in so far as these are designed for aged persons.

The main feature of this report however is the number of references to the inadequate water supply of the District and it is to be hoped, though unfortunately with a lessened confidence in view of the credit restrictions of 1957, that this deficiency will be remedied.

During the year the designation of our Sanitary Inspector was changed to the more appropriate title of Public Health Inspector. This change is in keeping with the gradual evolution which has been taking place from the nineteenth century Inspector pioneering in a very necessary but limited field to his present counterpart whose duties have become so many and diverse. In fact these duties are now so much greater that the Council may have to consider the advisability of increasing its staff to deal with them in the detail they deserve.

I should like to thank him for his assistance in the preparation of part of this report.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

I.B.MILLAR.

Medical Officer of Health.

Over:-

Area of District - 49,774 acres.
Estimated Mid-Year Population - 5170.
Number of inhabited houses according
to rate books - 1565.
Rateable Value - £27,880.
Product of penny rate - £121. 6. 5.

POPULATION - There has been a decrease of 10 in population estimate since the previous year.

NOTE: 31 of these births (20 Male, 11 Female) actually took place in the district as compared with 22 last year.
Crude Birth Rate: 18.2 births per 1000 total population.
Corrected Birth Rate: (for age and sex) : 19.8 births per 1000 total population. (Compared with provisional figures of 15.6 per 1000 total population for England and Wales, and for Wales alone in 1956, and 15.0 for Montgomeryshire).

Still Birth Rate: 10.5 per 1000 live and still births (compared with the provisional figures of 23.0 per 1000 live and still births for England and Wales in 1956, 27.6 for Wales and 17.5 for Montgomeryshire).

(a) Neonatal Deaths : 1 (Legitimate, Male)
Neonatal Mortality : 10.6 per 1000 live births.
(Compared with 16.9 for England and Wales in 1956.)

(b) Post-Natal Infant Mortality: NIL.

(c) Total Infant Mortality: (a) & (b) = 10.6 per 1000 live births. (Compared with provisional figures of 23.8 per 1000 live births for England and Wales in 1956, 28.7 for Wales and 29.7 for Montgomeryshire.)

(d) Perinatal Mortality: 21.5 per 1000 total births. This term is being used increasingly in referring to total loss of infant life before, during and shortly after birth. There is as yet no generally accepted definition of the term, but it is probably most usefully defined as including still births and deaths in the first week of life.

Despite great improvements in the general infant mortality and maternal mortality rates, the perinatal mortality rate has fallen only slowly and since 1948 it has been virtually stationary at about 38 per 1000 total births in England and Wales. (The average for the last four years in Forden Rural District was 38.5.)

The outstanding problem of perinatal death is premature birth. In England and Wales half the stillbirths are premature, and about a third of the deaths in the first week of life are ascribed to immaturity alone. In this district it so happens that prematurity figures in only 2 of the 7 deaths occurring in the first week during the years 1953-56, the other causes being obstetrical abnormalities of various kinds and congenital heart disease in two cases. All seven deaths were of the male sex.

Of the 7 stillbirths in 1953-56, prematurity was the cause of only one, although it was probably associated with 3 others. Obstetrical difficulties caused 2 others, and congenital abnormality accounted for one. In 5 the sex was male, the other two not being ascertained.

DEATHS.

All causes : Male 37
 Female 36
 Total 73

Crude Death Rate : 14.1 per 1000 total population.

Corrected Death Rate : (for age and sex) : 10.43 per
 1000 total population.

(Compared with the provisional rate of 11.7 for England and Wales, 12.4 for Wales, 12.19 for Montgomeryshire.)

DEATHS BY CAUSE, AGE AND SEX.

Cause	Sex	Under 1 year	20-30	Age Groups					90	Total	
				40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90		M	F
Malignant	M						1	1		2	
Neoplasm Stomach	F						2				2
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M				1	1	3			5	
Leukaemia	M					1				1	
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	M				1	3	5	4		13	
	F					1	5	5	1		12
Coronary disease	M				1		1	2		4	
angina	F						3	1			4
Other heart disease	M						2	3	1	6	
	F					2	3	2	1		8
Other circulatory disease	F								1		1
Bronchitis	M						1			1	
	F						1				1
Other respiratory disease	F						1				1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M					1		1		1	
	F										1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	F		1								1
Congenital malformatives	M	1								1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M					1	1			2	
	F							1	1		2
Accidents other than motor	M			1						1	
	F					1			1		2
Suicide	F			1							1
Totals	M	1		1	3	6	14	11	1	37	
	F		1	1		5	15	9	5		36
Grand Totals.		1	1	2	3	11	29	20	6	73	

Over:-

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

Year	Population	Crude Birth Rate		Still Birth Rate		Crude Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate		Peri-natal Mortality.
1945	4788	16.08	16.1	49.4	27.6	16.9	11.4	52.46		46
1946	4905	20.8	19.1	55.5	27.2	13.6	11.5	39.2	42.9	44.3
1947	4851	19.38	20.5	10.5	24.1	12.6	12.0	53.2	41.4	40.3
1948	4894	19.82	17.9	20.2	23.2	11.4	10.8	61.8	33.9	38.5
1949	4967	16.3	16.7	35.7	22.7	11.67	11.7	37	32.4	38.0
1950	4974	15.7	15.8	12.7	22.6	12.1	11.6	38.4	29.6	37.4
1951	5049	17.4	15.5	11.2	23.0	11.6	12.6	Nil.	29.7	38.2
1952	5046	18.6	15.3	Nil.	22.7	9.5	11.3	21.3	27.6	37.5
1953	5067	17.9	15.5	21.5	22.4	13.8	11.4	54.9	26.8	43 36.9
1954	5090	18.3	15.2	Nil.	23.5	13.6	11.3	21.5	25.4	21.5 38.1
1955	5180	16.21	15.0	45.45	23.2	13.13	11.7	59.52	24.9	68.23 74
Average for 1946-55	5002	18.04	16.6	21.3	23.5	12.3	11.6	38.7	31.5	38.6
1956	5170	18.2	15.6	10.5	23.0	14.1	11.7	10.6	23.8	21.1

Note; The second set of figures refers to England and Wales.

SECTION B. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The County Medical Officer is responsible for the arrangements dealing with the Personal Health Services of the area.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

- (1) WATER - This was another dry year, and in common with many parts of the County, shortages at times occurred. This is well known to the Ministry Department, and a further attempt was made to revive the original scheme for the whole of the County on a modified basis, with the hope that all Local Authorities in the County would co-operate, with the exception of the Machynlleth areas, for which a separate scheme was proposed. At the same time a proposed comprehensive water supply scheme for the whole of Fforden R.D. was before the Ministry, and sanction to proceed with this was requested. Owing to this shortage of water houses cannot be built or old houses modernised, even new Council houses cannot be properly supplied, badly needed sewage disposal schemes cannot be considered, and in many instances, the agricultural industry is seriously hampered, particularly where milk production is concerned.

(Bausley) - Since the Welshpool Borough Council were good enough to supply the thirty eight Council houses here with a maximum of 3,000 gallons per day, no water shortage has occurred.

(Berriew) - Although strict economy measures were introduced, there were minor shortages from time to time, but in this village we are fortunate, as 24 hours useful rainfall will result in the restoration of an abundant water supply. This supply is not regarded as pure bacteriologically, and is chlorinated.

A housing site on which it was originally proposed to build twenty houses has been available for development for a considerable time, but until an adequate water supply is available, houses cannot be built. The question of sinking a borehole, hoping to be able to augment existing supplies, is being considered. Some trouble has been experienced with the automatic electrical pumping equipment, but after the fitting of an improved type of link relays the plant has worked with 100 per cent efficiency. During the year the water supply has been connected to one farm and to the Parish Church.

(Berriew - Dyffryn Lane Council Houses) - A good supply of water was available to these eight houses during the whole of the year. Water is drawn into the kitchens of the houses by semi-rotary pumps, from a well.

(Churchstoke) - Since early in October, 1955, only with great difficulty, and by exercising strict economy, a certain amount of water has been available to the tenants of thirty-six Council houses. The borehole from which supplies were drawn has been steadily failing for some years. This situation caused hardship, particularly to tenants on the highest part of the Estate, and many complaints were received. However, after a considerable amount of time had been spent on survey and gauging of potential supplies in order to ascertain that yields were sufficient for the intended purpose, work was commenced on a scheme for supplying not only the 36 Council houses, but a number of other dwellings and farms within reasonable distance of the water main, which would come from the collecting area much higher up. In all, approximately 90 dwellings would be provided with an adequate supply of water. Meters would be fixed on all pipelines which supply farms. Frequent samples of water will be submitted for Bacteriological examination and it is hoped that chlorination may not be necessary.

(Churchstoke - Pentrenant County Council Small Holdings).

As has been reported for many years, an abundant supply was again available throughout the year. No complaints were received during the year.

(Abermule) - A plentiful supply was had by the tenants of the four Council Houses situated here.

(Forden - Leighton Road Housing Estate) - There was a good supply available all the year round for the ten houses on this site. The water is pumped from a borehole into an overhead tank, from which it gravitates to the houses.

(Forden - Church Site) - Here a good supply is pumped from a borehole to the Council houses (now 32) on this Estate. During the year, twelve additional houses were built.

The nearby School was provided with water from this Estate during the year. See under Schools.

Over:-

(Middletown) - Again, an abundant supply of water was available to the thirty Council Houses on this Estate, and one privately owned dwelling.

This water is chlorinated before it is piped to the houses.

(Llandyssil) - The Borehole here continued to give a plentiful supply all the year round. Some trouble was experienced owing to a defect in the submersible pump. After this was replaced by another pump, there was nothing further to complain of.

Comprehensive Survey of the District for a General Water Supply Scheme for the whole of the Forden Rural District.

This Survey was completed, and is now before the appropriate Ministry Department, with a request from the Rural District Council that authority be given for the necessary work to commence. As will be seen from the opening remarks under Water, no progress whatever can be made until such time as an adequate and suitable supply of water is piped all round the District. The position worsens from year to year. As an example, at Garthmyl in the Parish of Berriew, an old established water source, which has for very many years supplied Garthmyl Hall and a number of houses, failed completely during the year, and the tenants of these dwellings were reduced to carrying water for cleaning purposes from the nearby Canal, and their drinking water from wherever such water could be obtained.

(Leighton). - Here it is the Council's wish to build urgently required houses for agricultural workers, but without a supply of water, this is impossible. Many years ago, a borehole and a well were sunk, but water could not be obtained. Efforts are still being made to induce the Welshpool Borough Council to develop a well known spring which is situated in the area of the Forden Rural District, in order to augment their own water supply, and provide a sufficiency for use in Leighton Parish, which would of course, allow for the building of workers' houses.

In all these matters where water is required, the Council, for all their efforts, have met with little success.

As will be seen later on in this report, some progress has been made in Housing matters in the way of modernisation, but where an adequate supply of water is not to be had, it is useless to offer inducements, such as grant, for bringing dwellings up to standard.

GRANT-AIDED WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

Farmers continue to take advantage of the benefits obtainable under this scheme, which is administered by the County Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

During the year eleven such schemes were approved for laying on piped water supplies to farms and houses on such farms.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE - No changes during the year. Apart from the sewers and sewage disposal plants on the Council's Housing Estates, no sewers are owned by the Council. The Council has considered the badly needed provision of modern sewers in their villages, particularly in the village of Berriew, where antiquated insanitary drains and culverts exist, but nothing can be done until such time as water becomes available.

- (3) RIVERS AND STREAMS - No action was needed during the year to check pollution of rivers and streams, apart from seeing to the quality of sewage effluent from the Council's Estates.
- (4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION - The absence of piped water supplies necessitates the continued use of pail closets throughout the area, but in every case where modernisation of dwellings took place, and where new houses were built, a proper water supply was insisted upon, and of course, water closets were installed. Discharges from these were disposed of on the Septic Tank - Filter Principle. The provision of a piped water supply will mean a considerable number of conversions from conservancy to water carriage system.
- (5) PUBLIC CLEANSING - No change from last year. Domestic refuse is collected throughout the District once a fortnight.
- (6) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA - The District has been inspected systematically and at intervals as required, and where defects have been found, these have in all cases been remedied by informal action.
- (7) SHOPS AND OFFICES - All shops and Offices in the area have been inspected under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956. All were in satisfactory condition and no action was necessary.
- (8) CAMPING SITES - No sites were used for camping during the year.
- (9) SMOKE ABATEMENT - Fortunately, nuisance from smoke does not occur in this area, so no action was necessary.
- (10) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS - There are none in the area.
- (11) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS - Not a single dwelling in the area is infested with bed bugs.
- (12) SCHOOLS - Nearly all schools in the area have a piped water supply. However, at Forden School, during the past few years the supply, which was obtained from a well, was inadequate, so, by arrangement with the Forden R.D.C., a pipeline was laid to the School from the Council's nearby Housing Estate, and sufficient water is now available. Again, lack of piped water supplies to schools prevents the provision of water carriage sanitary arrangements.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Owing to shortage of staff, it was not possible to do much so far as the inspection of dwelling houses was concerned but it is hoped that in the near future, the work of the General Housing Survey will re-commence.

However, in the meantime, since the Survey was halted in 1955, much useful work has been done in obtaining remedies in respect of the many houses which were found to be unfit. This can be seen in the Report of 1955, and from the following remarks.

Over:-

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 23.

HOUSING ACTS 1949-54. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS. PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

No. of dwellings brought up to standard during the year	+	12
No. of dwellings approved for bringing up to standard	-	8
No. of dwellings where plans and particulars were awaited	-	7
Number of applications refused or withdrawn	-	7

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.(a) - Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs:- Nil.

(b) - Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied:- Nil.

(c) - Proceedings under Section 2 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made:- Nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:- Nil.

(d) - Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made:- Nil.
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit:- Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

- (a) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year:- Nil.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year:- Nil.
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year:- Nil.
- (d) Cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding:- Nil.

NEW HOUSES BUILT DURING THE YEAR.

During the year, the following dwellings were built by the Council:- At Forden - Twelve. At Middletown - Eight. Total 20.

BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DURING THE YEAR.

At Forden - One. At Leighton - One. At Criggion - Four.
At Churchstoke - One. At Middletown - One. At Llandyssil - One.
At Castle Caereinion - One. Total 10.

NEW VILLAGE HALL, MIDDLETOWN.

During the year, a new Village Hall was erected in this Parish. It has proved to be a real asset to the area.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The only food premises in the District are situated in the Villages. They are as follows:-

Four Grocers, General Stores and Sub-Post Offices.

Six Grocers and General Stores.

One Butcher's Shop.

They are frequently inspected, and during the year, there were no complaints.

MILK SUPPLY. - The only premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations is Kilkewydd Mill, Forden, owned by Midland Dairies Ltd. This firm collects milk at farms in the district, processes the milk, and disposes of it outside the district. No other food premises are Registered. The duties of supervising methods of milk production at farms, and the inspection of premises used in connection with milk production are carried out by the County Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

However, so far as distribution by Retailers is concerned, the position is closely watched, and during the year, conditions were satisfactory.

As there are only a small number of food premises in the District, these can be and are regularly inspected.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD - As no slaughtering of animals takes place it is rare for any unsound food to be found in the District. The odd tins of unsound food reported by grocers or found are disposed of by burial.

ICE CREAM - No ice cream is manufactured in the District.

MEAT - As mentioned above, no slaughtering is carried out in the District, and all meat entering the area is from animals slaughtered in the nearby surrounding towns, and is retailed from Tradesmen's Vans. These vans are regularly inspected, and during the year there were no complaints.

SECTION F. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 43 notifications during the year (18 male, 25 female) divided between 6 diseases, but 23 of them were related to the one disease, measles.

The measles cases almost all occurred in the fourth quarter of the year and the Pneumonia cases were in March, April, August and September. The Tuberculosis cases were in the first half of the year except one in November. The small outbreak of Dysentery occurred at Brynhyfryd Hospital in Forden during the month of May. It was caused by *Shigella Flexneri* and fortunately there were no secondary cases. It is possible that the death recorded in Section A under the heading Enteritis, which occurred early in May at this hospital, may have had some connection with this outbreak but there were other factors involved.

Apart from this doubtful case of Dysentery, there were no infectious disease deaths and as far as is known there were no serious complications.

Over:-

10.

The details are as follows:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Scarlet Fever	1 (aged 3 years)	
Pneumonia	3 (aged 11, 28 and 42 years)	4 (aged 28, 34, 56, and 58 years)
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3 (aged 19, 37 and 56 years)	2 (aged 31 and 55 years)
Dysentery		6 (aged 21, 27, 35, 52, 55, and 86 years)
Whooping Cough	1 (under 1 year)	
Measles	10	13
<u>Totals</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>25</u>

The Measles Cases

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Under 1 year	1	
1-2 years	1	2
2-3 "	1	
3-4 "		3
4-5 "	2	
<hr/>		
Total under 5 years	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
5-6 years	2	1
6-7 "	2	1
7-8 "		3
8-9 "		1
<hr/>		
Total 5-10 years	4	6
10-14 years	1	2
<hr/>		
TOTALS	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>

